



Childhood Connections

November 2, 2022



In the past few months, our office has been part of numerous meetings, webinars, and discussions about the childhood workforce across the state. From ideas to recruit more staff to training opportunities to ways to retain the current workforce, these are conversations that many employers are having today.

Whether private companies, non-profit, or public agencies - we can all relate to the need to strengthen our workforce.

In the Office of Childhood (OOC), we are using new and existing grant funds to support workforce initiatives. In this edition of Childhood Connections, you will find examples of this, including retention grants, training that is available at no cost, and other professional development activities. This is just the beginning of our efforts to support the workforce for childhood programs, there will be more activities coming in 2023.

Until next month,
Pam Thomas
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Childhood

Applications Open! Child Care Relief Funds

The first round of applications for Retention of Child Care Staff, Payment Protection, and Annual Training Costs are now available for eligible child care providers to apply. Details are on the [Child Care Relief Funds webpage](#) under the buttons for each application.

- These grants are made possible with Child Care American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stabilization funds.
- To apply, the child care provider must be enrolled in the state subsidy program or be licensed and meet all of the health and safety requirements.
- For more details about timelines and activities, check out the Instructions and Terms & Conditions for each application.



Parents As Teachers Day!

November 8, 2022, is national Parents as Teachers (PAT) Day! The OOC would like to hear the exciting ways that Missouri PAT Parent Education programs are celebrating with families and children. Be sure to share your celebrations with us! Send a short description of your celebration and a photo to childhood@dese.mo.gov.

- The deadline to apply is November 30, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.

Revised Child Care Subsidy Provider Rates

The 2022 child care subsidy provider rates are in effect and now available on the [subsidy rate webpage](#). The new rates will be reflected in the November payment for the service month of October. Providers serving children in protective services in foster care will get the market rate, and providers serving adoption subsidy and/or children in protective services for which legal guardianship is being pursued will receive the base rate. The updated rates include differentials for providers offering evening/weekend care and variances based on locale. If you have questions about your rate, contact the Child Care Subsidy Payment team at 573-522-1385.

Seeking Exhibitors! 2023 Conference on the Young Years



The 2023 Conference on the Young Years (CYY) will be held March 9-11, 2023, at Tan-Tar-A Conference Center in Osage Beach. The Office of Childhood is currently accepting applications for exhibitors. Applications must be [completed online](#). For more information contact Jamie Schieber at jamie@custommeetingplanners.com.

NEW! First Steps Informational Webinar

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) established the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) which is a series of “indicators” designed to measure results for children and families served in Missouri’s Part C Early Intervention program known as First Steps. The OOC is engaging with Missouri stakeholders to review targets or goals for these

NEW! Early Childhood State Advisory Council (ECSAC) Meeting

The next meeting of the ECSAC will be on Friday, January 20, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. Read more about the council meeting and how guests can listen live on the [ECSAC webpage](#).

NEW! Workwell Missouri Toolkit

[Workwell Missouri](#) provides resources for assisting agencies in developing a structured wellness program to meet their employee and agency needs for improving employee lives, morale, and efficiency within agencies. For questions, email workwellmissouri@missouri.edu or call 573-882-5114.

REMINDER! IDEA Part C Changes Comment Period

The OOC is proposing to amend the state regulations implementing Part C of the IDEA known as the Missouri Part C State Plan for First Steps. To review the proposed changes, information on public hearings in November, and how to submit comments, please review the [stakeholder message](#).

NEW! Training Dates

We are pleased to announce new dates for Conscious Discipline training opportunities provided by the University of

indicators, to analyze data, develop improvement strategies, and evaluate progress. A [webinar](#) will be on December 8, 2022 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. to share information with stakeholders and gather feedback.

NEW! Annual Child Care Subsidy Income Eligibility Adjustment

The annual child care subsidy income eligibility limit adjustments are now in effect and applications processed after October 1, 2022 will have updated eligibility determinations. The income limits for families are updated annually with changes in the Federal Poverty Level. [House Bill 3002](#) (section 2.510) allowed for a third level of transitional child care eligibility to be added, which increases the maximum income threshold for families in the subsidy program up to 242% of the Federal Poverty Level. Access the new income information under “Program Information” and “Child Care Income Limits and Sliding Scale Fees” on the [Child Care Subsidy webpage](#).

REMINDER! Subsidy Payment Resolutions

Under the Child Care Subsidy Provider Agreement, payment issues or discrepancies must be submitted to the OOC within 60 days using a Payment Resolution Request (PRR) form.

- PRR forms submitted more than 60 days after the verified service month will be denied.
- Payment resolutions without the correct information or documentation as specified on the form may be denied; however, requests may be submitted again if corrected information or supporting documentation is provided.

Send completed PRR forms to CCPayments@dese.mo.gov. If you have questions or need technical assistance to complete a PRR form, please call 573-522-1385.

NEW! Child Care Licensing Rule Updates for Comment

The OOC filed proposed rule changes that are published in the November 1, 2022, issue of the [Missouri Register](#). The updates are to the personnel section of the rules for licensed family child care homes, group child care homes, and child care

Missouri’s Center for Excellence in Child Well-Being and funded by the Missouri Preschool Development Grant. Registration is now open and there is no cost to attend these trainings.

- **For Home Visitors only** – learn how to work with and build the social/emotional skills in young children that’s based on brain research, worth three clock hours. [Sign-up here for virtual training](#)
- **For Subsidy Providers only** – learn how to work with and build the social/emotional skills in young children that’s based on brain research, worth three clock hours. [Sign-up here for in-person training in the Trenton Missouri area](#).

Professional Development Opportunities

The OOC is highlighting two Professional Learning Communities (PLC) offerings available to all home visitors.

- Mathematical Thinking From the Cradle to School
- Child Development: Keepers of the Knowledge

centers. The OOC welcomes public comment on the proposed rule amendments. Please visit our [Rules & Laws](#) webpage to find the proposed amendments, overview charts explaining the changes, and the [survey to submit a comment](#) on the proposed changes. Comments will be accepted through December 1, 2022.

REMINDER! Fingerprint Payment for Child Care Staff Members

December 31, 2022, is the last day that the OOC will pay for the cost of fingerprinting for child care staff members who register to complete the criminal background check required per Section 210.1080, RSMo.

Please keep the following in mind:

- Eligibility determinations for the employment or presence in a child care facility are good for five years from the date of the letter.
- If you already have an eligible letter dated within the last five years issued by DESE, the Department of Social Services, or the Department of Health and Senior Services you do not need to be fingerprinted again at this time.
- If there is an increase in individuals getting fingerprinted unnecessarily before the end of the year keep in mind that this may increase processing times for everyone, including prospective child care staff members.

REMINDER! Contact OOC When You Have A Director Vacancy

Licensed Child Care Centers – Did you know that your director must be on duty during your facility's hours of highest attendance, for a minimum of 40 hours a week? Or that you must notify the OOC when you have a change of Director? Group Home and Center Licensing Rules – 5 CSR 25.500.102 (2)(A)2. states: "Center directors and group child care home providers routinely shall be on duty during the hours of highest attendance a minimum of forty (40) hours per week. If the facility operates less than forty (40) hours per week, the center director or group child care home provider shall be on duty at least fifty percent (50%) of the operating hours." and 5 CSR 25.500.102 (2)(A)3. states: "The licensee is required to maintain an approved certificated group

For more information on dates, times, and locations visit the [Professional Learning Communities](#) webpage. These professional development opportunities are offered at no cost and are provided both in person and virtually.

Youth Development Credential (YDC) Scholarship Project

The Missouri AfterSchool Network (MASN) is offering a scholarship to providers to join the CypherWorx system. As part of the YDC Scholarship, candidates receive free access to over 120 clock hours of afterschool and youth development-specific training. Learn more about the YDC Scholarship Project on [MASN's website](#) or contact Ashlee Liska at liskaa@missouri.edu.

NEW! Missouri School Age Community Conference (MOSAC2)

The 29th annual MOSAC2 conference will be held at The Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri November 18-20, 2022. MOSAC2 provides a professional development opportunity for teachers, afterschool staff, and administrators who work with children in K-12 in out-of-school time programs. Join us at the MOSAC2 conference to learn from experts in the field, network with your peers, and renew

child care home provider or center director on staff.” and 5 CSR 25.500.102 (2)(A)6. states: “The center owner(s), or the board president or chairperson, shall notify the department immediately when there is a change of directors and shall have a qualifying criminal background check on file as required by 5 CSR 25-600.020 General Requirements.”

your joy of working with children and youth because “There’s no place like afterschool!” For more information or to register, visit the [conference website](#).

Due to the 40 hour requirement of a center director, your compliance inspector may review your director’s attendance records to ensure this is occurring. Make sure your director and all staff are keeping accurate attendance records to reflect this need.

If you do not have a director, contact your compliance inspector to ensure you are meeting the requirement of notifying the department. If you are struggling with finding staff, check out <https://jobs.mo.gov/> for resources for posting job openings and recruitment guidance.

Spotlight on Success

Spotlight on Success aims to share stories from local programs that are building community partnerships in order to strengthen and coordinate childhood programs.



Region 23 Community Leaders at the Annual Literacy Liftoff. Photo courtesy of Kerri Clouse.

This month's spotlight is on community leaders from region 23. These community leaders participated in Joplin NALA Read's Second Annual Literacy Liftoff. There were over 700 participants in the event. Region23 had a combined table with information about community leaders and the First Steps early intervention program. The team made referrals and found volunteers to help with early childhood programs in the southwest area. For example, the Joplin Parents as Teachers parent education program, recruited 13 new families during this event!

Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Update



The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A recording and the PowerPoint slides from the [October webinar](#) is available in case you are unable to attend and wish to hear the information. You can view archived webinars here:

- [September 2022](#)
- [August 2022](#)
- [July 2022](#)
- [June 2022](#)
- [May 2022](#)

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.

PDG B-5 Monthly Webinar

Join us for the next PDG B-5 Stakeholder webinar on November 29, 2022, from noon to 12:45 p.m. to learn more and ask questions. You can [access the webinar](#) in a Google Chrome or Safari web browser do not view in Internet Explorer. We hope you can participate!

Archived Editions of Childhood Connections

Visit the Office of Childhood website to find [previous editions](#) of the Childhood Connections.

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